was followed by another seizure of 5 shahtoosh shawls from a shop in Dilli Haat near INA market on 18.11.96. The seized property was produced before the Court on 20.11.96.

(c) So far no person has been arrested in these cases. Wool fibres have been collected from the seized shawls and sent to the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun for forensic examination.

(d) The measures taken to control smuggling of wildlife and their parts and products are given in the Statement.

STATEMENT

The measures taken to control smuggling of wildlife and their parts and products are :

(i) Hunting of wild animals included in Schedules I to IV of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, has been banned by law.

(ii) Special measures for protection and conservation of tiger, elephants and rhinos and their habitat are being implemented.

(iii) A network of 441 wildlife sanctuaries and 80 National Parks covering 1,48,000 sq. km. has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna. Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government for development of national parks and sanctuaries on request from the State Governments.

(iv) This Ministry has set up a National Coordination Committee consisting of representative of all major enforcement organisations such as : Customs, Revenue intelligence, CBI, Police, BSF, ITBP, RPF and foreign Post Office, Traffic-India and Wildlife authorities to enable effective inter-departmental cooperation and coordination to deal with the problem of illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products.

(v) Training programmes on enforcement and implementation of wildlife and other related laws and international conventions have been organised for all the enforcement agencies in February and November, 1995 and 1996.

(vi) Raids are carried out by the wildlife authorities, in cooperation with other enforcement agencies if necessary whenever information of illegal trading in wildlife is received.

(vii) India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) under which international trade in endangered species and their parts and derivatives is strictly regulated.

(viii) Rewards are given to informers for gathering intelligence regarding illegal trade and smuggling of wildlife products.

(ix) A Committee set up by this Ministry to look into issues related to illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products has recommended specific measures to deal with this problem and these are being followed up with the States for implementation.

(x) Regional and Sub-regional offices of Wildlife Preservation have been set-up mostly at the main export centres of the country to prevent illegal trade and smuggling of wildlife products.

Liberalisation Schemes

2564 SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY :
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :
SHRI ANIL BASU :
DR. ASIM BALA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the economic liberalisation programme is having some overbearing influence over the Project Tiger Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to salvage the project while taking deisions under the liberalisation schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (c). It is not a fact that the economic liberalisation policy of the Government is having over-bearing influence over the Project Tiger Programme. Each proposal, received for developmental activities in an around Tiger Reserves, is thoroughly scrutinised by the Ministry under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Any violation of these Acts is dealt within accordance with the provisions of Law.

(b) Does not arise.

National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation

2565 SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allotted to National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSCFDC) for the year 1995-96;

(b) the funds allotted to the State of Kerala for 1995-96 and the funds utilised out of the same; and

(c) the fund utilised in 1993-94 in the State of Kerala for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes?